



# KELP KRAWLERS DIVE CLUB

February 2006

Volume 22, Number 2

## Kelp Krawler News

President Steve Fornoff and the rest of the new Executive Board presented a host of new ideas to the dive club on our first meeting of the new year.

The club voted to resurrect the Kelp Krawler web site and to begin electronic delivery of our monthly newsletter. The new web site has just been launched at <http://www.kelpkrawlers.org>. Surf on over and check it out. Seventeen brave souls have also volunteered for electronic delivery of the newsletter. This should save the dive club around \$200 per year. If you are interested in electronic delivery of the newsletter, please contact Scott Boyd and let him know your preference.

After 25 years with the old Kelp Krawler logo, we have decided to design a new logo. The new logo should incorporate an Octopus, and a contest is being held to design this logo. Details are posted on the web site or contact Amy Kurtenbach.

An Underwater Photography Special Interest Group was formed as part of the dive club. It was decided to devote one meeting per quarter to Underwater Photography as there seems to be quite a bit of interest in the subject. We are planning on discussing underwater photography after regular club business during the February, May, August and November meetings. Those not interested may of course leave the meeting when the photographers get started.

The club volunteered to help Ron Ault at Hoodport N Dive with both his move to a new location, and with improvements to the Sund Rock Marine Preserve.

The Underwater Photography SIG will be holding a Photo Contest in October. Prints from the winning entries will be auctioned off during the November meeting as a fund raiser.

The first 50/50 raffle was held during the meeting and was very successful. Teale Niles won half the kitty (~ \$27).

Amy Kurtenbach is organizing a trip to the Channel Islands April 25-29. Cost is \$575.



## Kelp Krawler Officers of 2006

In order for all of us to get to know a little more about our 2006 officers they were asked the following questions:

How long have you been diving?  
 Why did you decide to start diving?  
 What is your favorite local dive site or type of diving in general?

### **Steve Fornoff, President**

I completed my Open Water Certification in 1997 just prior to going on vacation to the British Virgin Islands in the Caribbean. My first dive after certification was the Wreck of the Rhone at 80 feet; near Salt Island, BVI.....COOL first dive!



My favorite local sites include Sunrise Beach and Day Island Wall. Other places on my favorite list include Vancouver BC, Vancouver Island, Cozumel and diving in Hawaii where I was able to swim with a whale and manta rays. My overall

favorite diving would be anywhere in the Caribbean. Someday soon I hope to be able to visit Cuba (when it's legal) to experience their diving.

In the following year I hope to get more divers (new or old) to become Kelp Krawlers club

*(Continued on page 2)*

## 2006 OFFICERS

**President**  
 Steve Fornoff  
 426-1267

**Vice President**  
 Amy Kurtenbach  
 789-9992

**Treasurer**  
 Ingrid Niles  
 701-0665

**Secretary and Editor**  
 Scott Boyd  
 456-2066

**Historian and Dive Officer**  
 Mark Reece  
 459-1602

## MEMBERSHIP

Kelp Krawler dues:  
 \$15 single or  
 \$25 for a family  
 Membership.

Mail to:  
 Scott Boyd

[editor@kelpkrawlers.org](mailto:editor@kelpkrawlers.org)

## *Inside this issue:*

Officer Bios	2
Dive Reports	2-5
Dive Shop News	3
Calendar of Events	4
San Juan Islands	4
Solo Diving	5
Upcoming Events	5-6
Club Contact List	7

*(Continued from page 1)*

members and to create opportunities for current members to get more involved in KK club activities.



**Amy Kurtenbach, Vice President**

My Open Water Certification was completed in 1999. I was fortunate to grow up living on Eld Inlet. As a kid I took every opportunity to swim in Puget Sound or float on my air mattress with my head in the water watching the fish and all of the critters. The concept of swimming with the fishes still fascinates me.

My favorite dive locations include Day Island, Titlow Beach, and any site on Vancouver Island, Hood Canal, and in the Caribbean (especially Cozumel). I like them all!

I recently added underwater photography to my diving in both local and warm waters. I hope to be able to show non-divers what we get to enjoy underwater.

**Scott Boyd, Secretary and Editor**



I completed my Open Water Certification in 1999. Janet and I were going on our second honeymoon to Kona and decided that we wanted to get “under” the water to look at the pretty fishes rather than just snorkeling on the surface like we did the first time around. We were confirmed “warm water wussies” until we got back and decided to keep our diving skills sharp by diving locally.

My favorite local dives include the Sixgills at Owens Beach, Wolfies at Sunrise and the Nudies at Sund Rock. For tropical destinations I would list the Room of Tears and Cuzanah in Mexico, and Darwin’s Arch in the Galapagos Islands as my best dives. This has been a busy training year for me, including Full Cave Certification along with Trimix, Advanced Nitrox, Trimix Gas Blender, PSI Cylinder Inspection and Deco Procedures.

I have been involved with underwater photography for 6 years and look forward to the Special Interest Group of photographers forming within the club.

**Ingrid Niles, Treasurer**



I have been diving since 2003. Most of my time underwater has been in the cold water of the Northwest. I have also enjoyed the warm water locations of Australia, The Keys and in the Cayman Islands.

My passion is in filming the underwater world and share with others in the discovery of what

we get to see every time we go diving.

**Mark Reese, Historian and Dive Officer**



My first dive was 12 years ago in the warm waters of Cancun on 2 discovery dives. In 2004 I got my Open Water Certification with PADI in Salt Lake City. My first open water dives were in a warm water fresh lake at Blue Lake, NV. The visibility was about 3 feet so it was very spooky. Currently I hold the Dive Control Specialist rating from SSI. In the future I am interested in diving overhead environments, and using Tri Mix.

It is difficult to list just one local favorite dive site but one of my favorite warm water destinations would be Roatan. Diving with the sharks was great!

I will make sure our monthly dives will be scheduled for those divers with various levels of experience including new divers. It is important to me to be sure to have safe and fun dives. I don't want to scare any diver away from diving by putting them in an environment they are not ready for.

**Dive Reports**

**Les Davis Pier**  
*by Steve Griffith*

Friday afternoon Steve Griffith, Becky Lundin and Wendy Rude met at Les Davis Pier for a 1 tank excursion into the deep. The idea was for the ladies to practice their underwater photography techniques, and for Steve to see if he could still suck compressed air through a tube. All goals were met with great success.

We got in about 1 p.m. The sky was cloudy, but at that moment it wasn't raining, and we found the visibility to be acceptable: 10 to 15 feet at depth, and about 10 feet from 25 feet up. After a quick trip to the dizzying depth of 40 feet, we ascended to shallower depths so that the ambient light would be greater. We had to be careful not to kick up the silt so that pictures could be taken, and were only partially successful at that. Some great sightings were made, the best being a small nudibranch that Becky got a good shot of with her digital camera.

Because we were working at shallower depths for the most part, the air consumption wasn't that great, and we got out after a 50 minute dive with plenty of air left. Overall, this was a successful dive for all concerned. Hopefully, it won't be that long until the next one.

C Ya in the water!

Steve

**Sund Rock**  
*by Wendy Rude*

Maintenance can be fun!

*(Continued on page 3)*

*(Continued from page 2)*

Has anyone ever struggled with your thoughts about diving when you have not been in the water for a while? You KNOW you have to get back under that water soon and blow some bubbles! This kind of dive reminds you that YES you are a diver! I call it a Maintenance Dive. You finally find a day where you are going to get in the water, no excuses! Life gets so crazy and busy that we get drawn away from the habit of diving regularly, but the water is out there calling to you. Becky Lundin and I had our "Maintenance Dive" at Sund Rock on Jan19th.

Our dive plan was to try out our camera skills at the North Wall. Our entry surprised me. There was still quite a bit of runoff from the fresh water that made everything look really blurry as we first went down for our dive. We headed north very slowly looking for willing and unwilling subjects for our pictures. It was such a great dive. We saw 2 large Wolf Eel that were not sure they wanted to be the subject of our photo adventure. There was also a large Octopus that was very comfortable in his rock den unwilling to come out and play with us. I am amazed at how much more I saw after taking an underwater video class. I was really trying to take a SLOW good look at all the critters that could be the next star of our photo quest. Becky was looking for photo shots and I was trying to find subjects for her to shoot.

The water seemed extra cold to us that day, but it was worth it. The Wolf Eels and Octopus were a great find, but there was so much more. When you are really taking your time and looking close, everything seems to pop out at you. There was one Rock Fish that wanted to steal the show and would not get out of Becky's FACE. She obliged and took a CLOSE UP! Squid eggs, a Ling Cod guarding it's nest, Decorator Crab, and lots of nudibranchs made our dive so fun.

Maintenance dives are great! Wendy

**John Brown's 50th Birthday**

KVI Tower and Dalco Wall. *by Scott Boyd*

Just sit right back and you'll hear a tale,  
A tale of a fateful trip,  
That started from this rainy port (Tacoma),  
Aboard this tiny ship (Sampan).

The mate was a mighty sailing fan,  
The skipper brave and sure (Rick).  
Eleven passengers set sail that day,  
For a three hour tour, a three hour tour.

The weather started getting rough,  
The tiny ship was tossed,  
If not for the courage of the fearless crew,  
The Minnow would be lost, the minnow would be lost.

The ship dropped anchor near the shore of this uncharted desert isle (Vashon),  
With John Brown, Craig Brown too, Mark Reece and his wife,  
Amy Stewart, Tani, Rick and Jenny Anne,  
Here, on Gilligan's Isle.



That's right, we celebrated John Brown's 50th Birthday in style aboard the SS Minnow, otherwise known as the Sampan. Rick Meyers was a great sport, enjoying the fun and festivities, as we showered John with food and gifts between dives at KVI Tower and Dalco Wall. Rick barely winced when Tani made John a cake, as in egg and flour all over John's head (and the boat) just before we entered the water at Dalco. John was a good sport about the sticky mess all over his hood, and jumped in the water without his mask to clean up the mess before descending for an awesome dive on Dalco.

The Ratfish were out in force at KVI and we spotted nearly a dozen Kelp Greenlings (both male and female). The water temperature was down to 47 degrees, and almost everyone exited the water after about 50 minutes with very cold hands. Dalco wall was fun with lots of little critters inhabiting the pock marked wall, including a cute little yellow grunt sculpin sticking

*(Continued on page 4)*

**DIVE SHOP NEWS:**

**Capital Divers** **866-3684**  
[www.capitaldivers.com](http://www.capitaldivers.com)

**Palau** trip on the Palau Aggressor June 25-July 2 2006 (still 7 spots left). Nitrox, argon and hyper filtered air fills available.

**Bandito Charters** on Feb 19, Mar 18, April 9, May 13, June 4, July 16, Aug 17, Sep 17, Oct 14, Nov 12 and Dec 9.

**Hood Sport 'n Dive** **(360) 877-6818**  
[www.hoodspordndive.com](http://www.hoodspordndive.com)

The shop is now pumping nitrox while you wait, trimix, deco gases, and argon. Also, they are offering discounted access to the **Sund Rock Marine Preserve** for paid members.

**Underwater Sports** **493-0322**  
[www.underwatersports.com](http://www.underwatersports.com)

The Olympia Shop is now pumping hyper filtered Air. Discounted air cards for Kelp Krawlers: 10 fills for \$25.

(Continued from page 3)

his head out of a giant barnacle shell. **Happy half century John Brown!**

### San Juan Islands

by Alan Niles

San Juan Islands are always fun diving. I recently was treated to a dive there as a birthday present. We started at 4:30 am to get to the Orcas Is. Ferry. We dove Bell Island and Broken point off of Orcas. Both dives were very exciting and filled with the prolific life that makes the San Juan's so much fun.



I found a "color" band at around 50 feet. There seemed to be extra thick life in that range consisting of tunicates, sponges fish and nudis. I wish I could tell you all that we saw but if I new the names the list would go on to long. Some highlights were; longfin sculpins and scaly head sculpins, several types of nudis, sponges, and stars. The highlight was watching two Puget Sound King crabs scale an overhanging wall. One leapt off the wall backwards taking a heart crab with it and free fell 40' to the bottom of the wall, where he flipped over like a cat and landed feet first.

We did two 60 minute dives but it was not nearly long enough. Both sites have more to explore than you could do on 20 dives. Visibility was only about 15 feet due to the rain and water temps were down to 46 degrees. Our charter operator was not stellar but I imagine that it may have been just on off day. I'd give them a try again but don't expect Bandito or Pac Adventures type of service, and you will pay about \$30 more. That all said the diving is worth it.

A note to anyone thinking of visiting Orcas we stayed at the Kangaroo House B and B. It is located in Eastsound and is very quaint. Peter the owner is an Ausie and worked in the Park Service as a diver among other things. He serves a wonderful breakfast. They have a garden hot tub and very comfortable calm relaxing house at a reasonable rate. We had a fantastic dinner at Bilbo's, also in Eastsound. They served "the best" fish tacos ever. We stopped by West Beach resort, an old favorite of mine because they have boat launches, mooring, camping, cabins, a store and they used to do air fills. I'm disappointed to say they no longer have this ser-



vice. Apparently no one fills air besides at Friday Harbor.

We love to get a group of Kelp Krawlers together and take another longer trip. If anyone is interested let me or Ingrid know and we would be glad to help make the arrangements.

### Titlow Beach

by Carolyn Fornoff

Amy Kurtenbach and I went to one of my favorite dive sites, Titlow Beach, last Saturday. There was a steady current which lowered the visibility somewhat. The anemones on the pilings were beautiful as usual, but there were noticeably fewer fish in general.

We did have our first sighting of the Shaggy Mouse Nudi-branch. Basically it looks like a nudi with dirty fur on its back. Amy found a couple of healthy looking octopus in their

(Continued on page 5)

## Calendar of Events

- Feb 3-5th:** Porpoise Bay Charters, Sechelt, B.C., Canada. Contact **Tani Iwashita** for details  
**Feb 18-20:** Seventh annual giant Pacific octopus census. Contact [roland.anderson@seattle.gov](mailto:roland.anderson@seattle.gov)  
**Feb 18-20:** Nanaimo Dive Trip, contact Capital Divers for details.  
**Feb 19th:** Bandito Charters, contact **Capital Divers** for details.  
**Feb 21st:** Club Meeting, 7:00 PM. Underwater Photography SIG meets after initial club business.  
**Feb 25th:** Club dive at Keystone, Whidbey Island. Meet at Keystone, 9:00 AM (catch the 8:00 AM ferry).  
**Mar 21st:** Club Meeting, 7:00 PM  
**Mar 31st:** New dive club Logo entries are due. Contact Amy Kurtenbach.  
**April 25-29:** Channel Islands Dive Trip with Optiquatics. Contact Amy Kurtenbach.

(Continued from page 4)

dens and several gunnels that enjoyed our attention. The newly graveled pathway to the beach make this access and easier climb back. Parking is now very limited as the restaurant has taken over most of the parking. Still a great dive site.



### Solo Diving with your Buddy? by Steve Fornoff

Think about it, this doesn't make sense. If you're diving with a buddy then how can you be 'solo' diving? Well trust me, this happens more then we like to believe...even for the most experienced diver.

When you and your buddy are getting ready to enter the water, have you established a dive plan and do you dive your plan? A dive plan is not just for a new diver, it's for EVERY diver!

Proper dive planning is a key safety factor for every dive. Discussing the following questions are part of the basics we all learned in Open Water Class and should always be discussed with your dive buddy PRIOR to entering the water.

- Who will lead the dive?
- How much air is in you tank for the start of the dive?
- How is your equipment configured?
- What is the max depth of your dive?
- Which direction will you go to start the dive and to end the dive?
- Will your buddy follow behind or swim along side the leader?
- At what point in the dive or at what air pressure will designate the half way point of the dive?
- What is the designated exit point at the end of the dive?
- Have you discussed a 'lost buddy' procedure?

Failure to cover any one of the above questions can create an 'upset' condition that can lead to a diver becoming separated from their dive buddy. When one becomes separated from a buddy, what then? At this point, that's when the lost buddy procedure becomes very important and must be implemented without failure.

All too often a diver will think to themselves "Hey, my buddy is experienced, they have good equipment, we both should have plenty of air left, and my buddy knows this dive site like the

back of their hand. I don't want to waste the air I have left in my tank, so I'll just finish this dive by myself." This is not what a smart diver should think or do.

I say this because recently I did exactly what I described above. My buddy and I did not cover any kind of a dive plan, we just dove in and went down. Shortly afterwards I became separated from my buddy, after spending a couple of minutes searching for my buddy and without much thought given to my buddy's safety I finished the dive solo. There was no problem, my buddy also finished the dive solo, we both had a good dive and everything ended well....this time.

Later I thought, this was really a stupid thing for me to do, and it was. I've promised myself that for all future dives my buddy and I will go back to the basics of dive planning for every dive. How about you???

### Dive Keystone

The **February Club Dive** will be held at the **Keystone State Park Breakwater** on Whidbey Island on Saturday, February 25th at 9 AM. If you haven't been to Keystone before, this is a great opportunity to check out one of Washington's premier dive sites.

We'll be catching the 8 AM Ferry from Port Townsend to Keystone on Saturday morning. The dive site is immediately to your right as you exit the ferry. You can't miss it, as the breakwater protects the ferry.

There is a very small exchange that day, and we should be able to easily get two dives in on this shallow and popular dive site. This is an intermediate dive, suitable for all divers that are comfortable with the current and proximity to the ferry. For more information, contact Scott Boyd, or check in Northwest Shore Dives.

### February Dive Club Meeting

The February dive club meeting will feature our newly formed **Underwater Photography Special Interest Group (SIG)**. We will go over and finalize the rules and details on our first Photo Contest. Pre and post dive photo equipment care will be demonstrated and discussed, and a mini-contest will be held for member photos taken in the last three months. The winner will receive a Northwest Diver calendar and will have their photo proudly displayed on the new Kelp Krawler web site.

The February Dive Club meeting will be held at Dirty Dave's Pizza Parlor on **Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM**. Come early to eat and socialize. Photographers, please bring your photos and your questions!

The **Kelp Krawlers** support the **Divers Alert Network** and strongly encourages you to join! The advice and insurance available through **DAN** could save your life. Sign up on the web at: [www.DiversAlertNetwork.org](http://www.DiversAlertNetwork.org) and use the club sponsor number **392620**.

**The Seventh Annual Octopus Census**

The Seattle Aquarium will be conducting the seventh annual census of Giant Pacific Octopuses in Puget Sound, **Saturday through Monday, February 18th - 20th, 2006 (President's Day weekend)**. We hope that all divers in Puget Sound south of Keystone on Whidbey Island and inside of Deception Pass southward will report any octopus sightings to the Seattle Aquarium on those days (see contact information below).

**Information requested:**

- **Date**
- **Time of day**
- **The exact dive site**
- **Exact depth**
- **Den information**
- **Some indication of size of the octopus (tennis ball, cantaloupe, basketball, or BIG!)**
- **Some indication of where the den is in relation to the entry point of the dive**
- **Number of divers**

Let us know if this is a site where you normally see octopuses and they are absent now!

**For example:** 51 feet deep, 20 yards right of the entry at Octopus Hole, Hood Canal, in a vertical crack in rock outcrop, basketball-sized body). We hope this information can give us some indication of the relative abundance of octopuses in Puget Sound, and future surveys will give us an indication of trends in their abundance, whether their populations are increasing or decreasing.

Information about any and all octopus sightings on those three days can be reported to:

**Dr. Roland Anderson at the Seattle Aquarium:**  
**phone: (206) 386-4346**  
**email: [roland.anderson@seattle.gov](mailto:roland.anderson@seattle.gov)**  
**fax: (206) 386-4328**

**Possible places to dive:** Alki Pipeline, Seacrest, 4 Mile Rock Barges, Shilshole Bay Barges, Three Tree Pt., Edmonds Wrecks, Edmonds Oil Dock, Redondo, Richmond Beach, Blakely Rock and Blakely Reef, Maury Island Barges, Tacoma Narrows, Titlow Beach, Possession Pt. Ferry, Day Island, Richmond Pt. Wreck, Sunrise Beach, Keystone, Langley Tire Reef, Fox Island, Taylor Bay Wrecks, Hoodsport, Sund Rock, Octopus Hole, Hamma Hamma Wall, Hood Canal Bridge, Salt-water State Park and others.

Thanks to everyone for participating! I hope you'll get out and dive on that weekend!

- Dr. Roland Anderson

**Special Thanks** to all of the Kelp Krawlers that **contributed to the Newsletter** this month. The dive reports and Trip reports are most appreciated! **Keep them coming!**

Photographers, send me a couple of photos with your dive reports!



Members and friends present at the January 17th meeting where:

**Don Noviello, John Cipriano, Steve and Carolyn Fornoff, Jamie Welsh, Richard Penny, Amy Kurtenbach, birthday boy John Brown, Mark Reece, Duane Hamrick, Steve Griffith, Oleta and Lee Artman, Steve Sutton, Wayne Campbell, Janet and Scott Boyd, Wendy Rude, Becky Lundin, Rick Cooper, Karl Ruppert and**